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JOHN R. D'ANTONIO, JR.
SECRETARY

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Environment Department Issues Final Order on Solid Waste Permits

(Albuquerque, NM) – On December 2, Environment Secretary John R. D'Antonio, Jr. signed final orders on two Albuquerque and one Bernalillo County solid waste facility permit applications. The final orders provided permit revisions for existing solid waste transfer stations.

The solid waste facility permit issued by the Environment Department for the Eagle Rock Solid Waste Convenience Center, in northeast Albuquerque, was renewed, with conditions, for a 20-year period. The facility accepts municipal solid waste from residential and commercial customers and transports the waste to Albuquerque's Cerro Colorado landfill for disposal. The convenience center also provides recycling bins for cardboard, newspaper, plastic, aluminum, steel cans and glass. The Convenience Center was first permitted in 1992 and has been in operation since 1994.

A new 20-year permit was issued by the Department for the Montessa Park Solid Waste Convenience Center, which is located south of the Albuquerque International Airport on Los Picaros Road. The permit was issued with conditions, one of which requires the city to pick up litter at least once daily on the road to the facility. The new permit is for a two-phase renovation and expansion. The first phase entails a complete renovation of the existing facility, currently closed due to structural problems. Phase II will be a major expansion including a completely enclosed tipping area and a drop-off area for the collection of recyclables, appliances and compostable materials. The Montessa Park Convenience Center has been in operation since 1990. During 2001 the facility served over 41,000 customers,

transported 15,000 tons of solid waste to the Cerro Colorado landfill and recycled 461 tons of appliances and batteries.

A new 20-year permit was approved, with conditions, for the Bernalillo County East Mountain Transfer Station, located on New Mexico 333 (old Route 66), two miles east of the Village of Tijeras Municipal offices. Bernalillo County has agreed, as a permit condition, to adopt a one-mile section of highway adjacent to the facility to control litter. The transfer station had been registered with the Environment Department since 1984. Due to the population increase in the east mountain area and the corresponding increase in waste volume, the County was required to acquire a Solid Waste Permit for the facility. Under the new permit, the facility will be expanded to process a maximum of 40 tons of municipal waste per day and increase recycling.

Public hearings for the three permit revision applications were held on September 11, 2002.

For more information, contact Don Beardsley, Permit Section Manager, Solid Waste Bureau, NMED, at (505) 955-8086 or Cathy Tyson-Foster, Communications Director, NMED, at (505) 827-0314.

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